

DokuWiki or Wiki.js: Is the Self-Hosted Wiki Right for You?

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A self-hosted wiki allows you to manage content on your own server, giving you full control over your data and settings. Two of the most popular options are **DokuWiki** and **Wiki.js**. Both are free and open source, but they work in different ways. DokuWiki stands out for its simplicity and ease of use, while Wiki.js offers a modern interface with advanced collaboration features. This guide will compare the two to help you decide which option best suits your needs.

DokuWiki is ideal for small teams and personal projects

DokuWiki is a lightweight, open-source wiki software built in PHP. It stores content as plain text files, making it easy to set up on any basic server without a database. Its low server requirements and simple installation process make it ideal for small teams and personal projects.

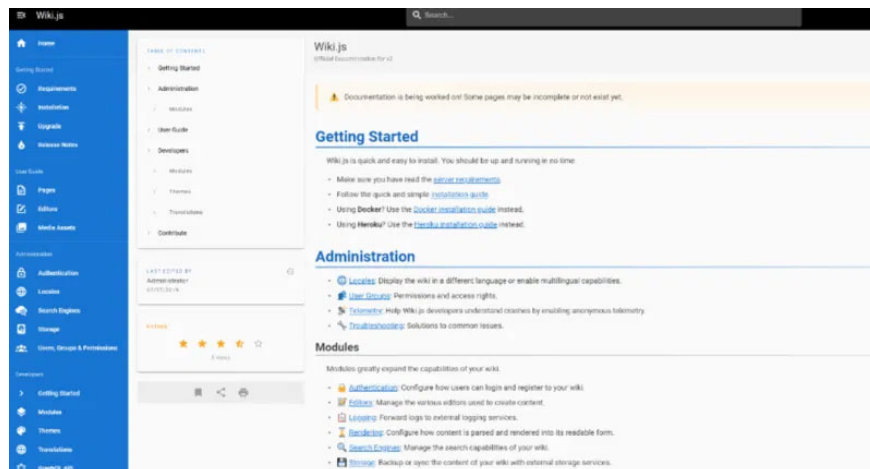


DokuWiki includes a built-in version control system to track changes, compare edits, and prevent conflicts. Access can be managed at both the page and item level, with support for LDAP and Active Directory, making it suitable for larger organizations.

DokuWiki also supports thousands of plugins for customization, although some are outdated and may not work with the latest versions. Its interface can feel outdated and lacks real-time collaboration features, as only one user can edit a page at a time. Features like tagging and privacy controls are available, but are limited compared to other modern platforms.

Wiki.js allows multiple users to collaborate at the same time

Wiki.js is a modern, open-source wiki platform that provides a user-friendly interface for both desktop and mobile devices. It supports real-time editing using Markdown, allowing multiple users to collaborate at the same time, similar to Google Docs.



It integrates with many authentication providers like Google, GitHub, LDAP, and Discord. Git integration allows for automatic backups, version tracking, and easy content recovery. Wiki.js also comes with built-in tools for searching, media management, and image previewing, reducing the need for external plugins.

However, Wiki.js requires a SQL database and Node.js, which can make setup more complex and resource-intensive. It may not be ideal for basic hosting environments, and some users find its navigation less intuitive.

Note : Docmost is the best self-hosted Notion alternative you are looking for.

Compare security capabilities

DokuWiki provides built-in authentication and LDAP/Active Directory support via plugins. Access control is managed via ACLs, making it effective for multi-user setups. Maintaining security includes regular PHP/plugin updates, using HTTPS, and setting appropriate file permissions.

Wiki.js supports advanced security options, including 2FA, OAuth, SAML, and integration with Google and GitHub. Its RBAC system allows for granular control over user roles and permissions. Security best practices include keeping Node.js and databases up to date, using environment variables for security, and enabling Git-based version control for backups and restores.

Consider Cost When Choosing a Self-Hosted Wiki

DokuWiki is ideal for low-cost setups. Wiki.js runs without a database and works well on shared hosting or lightweight VPS.

Wiki.js requires more resources, including Node.js and a SQL database. VPS or cloud hosting is recommended, but there may be additional costs if using Docker or a managed cloud database.

Which Wiki is right for you?

Here is a detailed comparison between DokuWiki and Wiki.js, highlighting their core features, strengths, and ideal use cases:

Features	DokuWiki	Wiki.js
Stack Technology	Based on PHP, stores data as plaintext, no database required	Based on Node.js, requires SQL database (e.g. PostgreSQL, MySQL).
Easy to set up	Easy to install on any server that supports PHP.	Requires Node.js and a database, but Docker and instructions simplify setup.
Editing experience	It uses its own wiki markup syntax. Visual editor can be used via plugins.	Supports Markdown, WYSIWYG, live preview and HTML
Authentication	Includes basic user manager and LDAP or Active Directory support via plugin.	Built-in support for Google, GitHub, LDAP, SAML, OAuth, and 2FA.
Access Control (ACL)	It allows page/section permissions using ACLs.	It provides granular access control with roles, groups, and permissions for tight control.
Search function	It has a built-in full text search engine.	Wiki.js includes full-text search with external integrations like Elasticsearch, Algolia
Plugin / Extension	It offers over 1,000 plugins that let you add features like SEO tools, sitemaps, and export options.	It has a module system with built-in tools; fewer plugins than DokuWiki.
User Interface	Simple and easy to use; has many themes but can look outdated.	Modern, responsive user interface with dark/light mode and mobile support.
Backup & Portability	Easy file-based backup by copying folders.	Supports Git sync, database backups, and external storage (e.g. S3, Dropbox).
Efficiency	Lightweight and runs well on low resource servers.	Requires more resources; better suited to dedicated or cloud servers.
Best use cases	Suitable for personal, school and small group wikis.	Ideal for modern teams that need real-time editing and integration.

Both of these self-hosted platforms have their strengths. DokuWiki is a great choice if you want a simple, database-free solution that is easy to set up and maintain. The lightweight nature of DokuWiki makes it ideal for personal wikis, internal documentation, or small teams working in resource-constrained environments.

Wiki.js, on the other hand, is better suited for modern teams that need real-time collaboration, third-party integrations, and granular access control. While it requires more setup and resources, it offers a beautiful interface and powerful features for growing or enterprise-level projects.

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